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Ivan Albright's American Beauty, Transformed

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Ivan Albright's American Beauty, Transformed

Julie P. Center

Albright can make miracles out of mirrors.
Ida says "I need the money, so make me old,"
and the dollar sits on the table
while the pennies wait patiently beside.

Just a pretty face
and a child-sucked chest with
nothing inside.
"So make me old. Give me imperfections
to hope for."

The mirror waits for the truth.
The soul of Ida, revealed
in each crease in her thighs,
each vein in her high-heeled ankles.
Albright tilts her head
and forces her to look in the mirror.

Behind his shadow-made eyes,
"See, the woman you will become."
Ida looks, and sees, "I am beautiful now."
So sorrowfully beautiful,
wrinkles can make miracles out of Ida.